

November 2012



e-news

Race and Social Justice Initiative and Seattle Race and Social Justice Community Roundtable host workshop on education equity

Saturday, November 17

9 am – 12 noon

New Holly Gathering Hall

7054 32nd Ave South, Seattle WA 98118

Bus Info: Take the 106, get off at 32nd Ave S.

Join us in a working session to discuss achieving racial equity in education and creating success for all students.

At the beginning of 2012, we held community meetings to determine community priorities. Education and community development were selected as the top two priorities for eliminating racial inequity.

The City of Seattle convened two workshops for City staff in August and September to take a hard look at the City of Seattle's programs and policies that can help achieve racial equity. While many of our programs and policies work for the success of young people, the City must develop stronger partnerships with the community and across institutions to make racial equity and success for all our children a top priority.

On November 17 City staff will come together with community members and other institutions to focus on developing shared strategies for achieving racial equity in education. Please join us in this work!

Racial Equity in Education Community Workshop on November 17th at New Holly Gathering Hall from 9 am – 12 noon.

RSVP at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/educationequity> and spread the word to your friends, neighbors and community partners! Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, to request an accommodation, language interpretation or child care please contact Maria Rodriguez at (206) 684-0548 or by email at Maria.Rodriguez@Seattle.gov. For childcare requests, please contact us by Thursday, November 15.

This event is cosponsored by the Race and Social Justice Community Roundtable, Seattle Public Schools, Puget Sound Educational Service District, Childcare Resources, King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative, Senior Services, YWCA Seattle-King County-Snohomish, Pride Foundation, Seattle Indian Health Board, People's Institute Northwest, Arab American Community Association of Washington State, Solid Ground, Nonprofit Assistance Center, Seattle Housing Authority, American Friends Service Committee, United Way, NAACP, Washington Community Action Network.

RSJI focuses on racial equity in education

“It all comes down to education.”

That’s what community members said when they met in October 2011 to review the City of Seattle’s new three-year plan for the Race and Social Justice Initiative. At that meeting, racial inequities in education emerged as a top priority.

As mentioned above, on Saturday, November 17, community members will have another opportunity to discuss racial equity in education at a workshop from 9 am to 12 noon at New Holly Gathering Hall, 7054 32nd Avenue S. This working session will be an opportunity to learn what actions have been taken this year and what next steps should be taken. [Click here to register for the 11/17 workshop.](#)

Throughout 2012, the City of Seattle has been working with Seattle Public Schools and other community partners to eliminate racial inequity in education. At a Seattle Public Schools Board meeting on August 15, the Board passed the [“Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity” policy](#). Through this policy, the District has committed itself to eliminate racial disproportionality in all aspects of education and its administration – for example, the over-application of discipline to students of color, their over-representation in Special Education, and their under-representation in various Advanced Learning programs. The District also has committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of race or class, graduate from Seattle Public Schools ready to succeed in a racially and culturally diverse local, national, and global community.

Here are some other steps that the City of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools have taken:

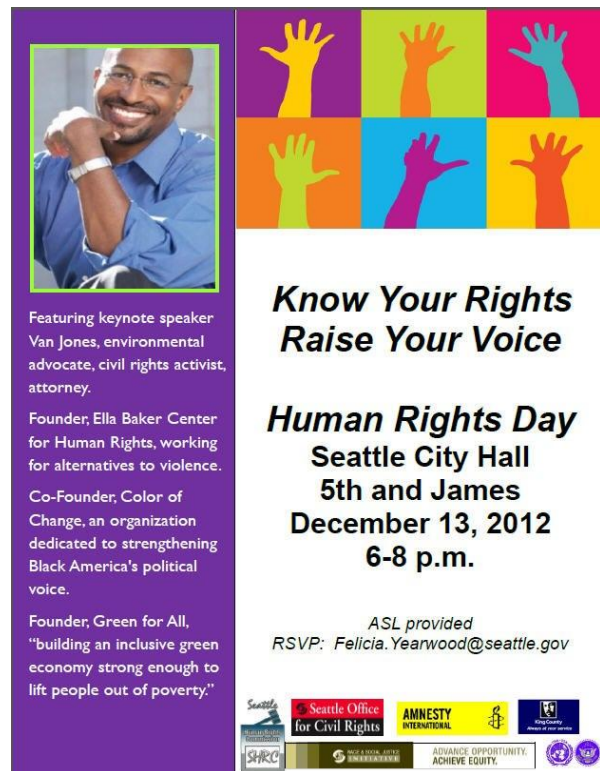
- The School District is a member of the [Race and Social Justice Community Roundtable](#), and Superintendent José Banda and Family and Community Engagement Manager Bernardo Ruiz participate in Roundtable meetings. The Roundtable is a regional forum for leadership on racial justice.
- Earlier this year, RSJI conducted racial equity training for principals, assistant principals and administrators. We also have offered to conduct “train-the-trainer” sessions to help with the establishment of equity teams within individual schools.
- Seattle Office for Civil Rights director Julie Nelson co-chairs the Policy Committee of the Seattle School District’s Equity and Race Advisory Committee.
- RSJI has shared our Racial Equity Toolkit, a structured tool for achieving racial equity in programs and policies.
- City staff from different departments who are responsible for the City’s education programs have held internal workshops to focus on racial equity and coordinate their work.

“I am excited about the City’s shared dedication to this cause, and I look forward to our ongoing collaboration,” said Julie Nelson. “We who serve as community leaders should feel the urgency of this work. Our youth deserve no less than our full commitment to ensuring racial equity in education.”

Know Your Rights Raise Your Voice
Human Rights Day
Seattle City Hall
5th and James
December 13, 2012
6-8 p.m.

Each year, the City of Seattle celebrates the signing of the U.N.'s Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. This year's celebration features keynote speaker Van Jones, environmental advocate, civil rights activist, attorney. Magdaleno "Leno" Rose-Avila, Director, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, will serve as master of ceremonies.

The event is sponsored by the Seattle Human Rights Commission and the Seattle Office for Civil Rights, in conjunction with the United Nations Association of Seattle, Youth for Human Rights International, Amnesty International, the King County Civil Rights Commission, and other community partners.



Featuring keynote speaker Van Jones, environmental advocate, civil rights activist, attorney.

Founder, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, working for alternatives to violence.

Co-Founder, Color of Change, an organization dedicated to strengthening Black America's political voice.

Founder, Green for All, "building an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty."

**Know Your Rights
Raise Your Voice**

Human Rights Day
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ASL provided
RSVP: Felicia.Yearwood@seattle.gov

Seattle Office for Civil Rights, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, ADVANCE OPPORTUNITY, ACHIEVE EQUITY, and other logos.

ASL provided. RSVP: Felicia.Yearwood@seattle.gov

Welcome Race and Social Justice new hires!

Benita Horn and **Sonia Palma** have joined the Seattle Office for Civil Rights as temporary employees to work on the Race and Social Justice Initiative. They are managing portions of Glenn Harris's work while he is on loan to the Mayor's Office to help with the establishment of the Community Police Commission.

Benita has been an advocate and activist for social change for more than three decades, both personally and professionally. She has run Achievement Architects Northwest, which offers consulting, facilitating and training on race and social justice.

Sonia has been an active member of the Seattle Department of Transportation's RSJI Change Team, is a leader in the Latino City Employees, and has extensive experience in community engagement and project management.

City employees take the RSJI Employee Survey!

Every two years, the Seattle Office for Civil Rights conducts a survey of City employees about the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI). The survey is confidential and gives employees an opportunity to share their opinions about RSJI. The results will be distributed at the end of the year.

KUDOS!

To Jacque Larrainzar for “Racial Equity Toolkit” presentation:

Thank you so much for taking time to meet with the REACH team and share your wealth of information. The “Racial Equity Toolkit” certainly is a tool everyone can use when it becomes necessary to evaluate racial equity gaps and develop a plan for greater equity.

– Kathleen Schy-Berg, Department of Finance and Administrative Services.

To Elliott Bronstein for presenting at the Capital Projects Office UW:

Thank you all for the educational and thought provoking presentations at CPO University last week. I continue to get some very good feedback about the event. I feel we were able to get folks thinking about diversity in some new ways and I feel your efforts will facilitate increased awareness and appreciation of our diversity objectives at UW/CPO.

– Douglas W. Jennings, AIA, University of Washington

Announcements

New SOCR Facebook Page!

The Seattle Office for Civil Rights has a new Facebook page. Take a moment to “like” our page to stay connected and engaged:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Seattle-Office-for-Civil-Rights/414778518577224?fref=ts>

Everyone is welcome to join our page to stay in touch!



Facebook

Help students succeed in school

[The Seattle Public Library](#) is seeking volunteers to help students in grades 1–12 with homework assignments in English, history, mathematics, science, social studies and other subjects on a drop-in basis. Volunteers are especially needed at the **Rainier Beach Branch**. Volunteers must have completed at least one year of college and have experience helping children and teens as a tutor, teacher or family member. Make a difference today by calling the Library’s volunteer services coordinator at 206-386-4664 or visiting www.spl.org/volunteers for more information.

Fourteenth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest Announcement and Rules

The King County Civil Rights Commission is sponsoring its Fourteenth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Essay Contest. The contest is **open to all eighth grade students** attending public and private schools in King County. The purpose of the essay contest is to encourage middle and junior high school students to think critically about Dr. King's legacy of peace and justice.

This year's essay theme is: *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

Rules:

- 1) The essay must be between 750 and 1,000 words and must be typed and doubled spaced on white 8.5" by 11" paper.
- 2) Contestants must submit **one typed original essay and one copy of the essay**, by mail.
- 3) The name, address, home phone number, e-mail address, school, grade and age of student author must be submitted on a cover page, accompanying the essay. **Do not place your name on any other page.**
- 4) All essays must be in English and include a bibliography, **utilizing at a minimum one book source, but no more than one web site source.**
- 5) All essays will be judged on the author's: knowledge of Dr. King and his work in the Civil Rights Movement, originality of ideas, development of point of view, insight into the essay theme, and clarity of expression, organization, and grammar.
- 6) All essays submitted become the property of the Commission and will be displayed on County web pages, in County publications, in local publications, and in the King County Tunnel. Submitted essays will not be returned.

Prizes:

First, second and third prize winners will win trophies and commemorative Dr. King pin.

Deadline:

All essays must be postmarked by Tuesday, November 20, 2012, and mailed to: King County Civil Rights Commission, 401 5th Avenue, Suite 135, Seattle, WA 98104. Essays postmarked after that date will not be considered, nor returned.

Notification of Winners:

Winners will be notified by mail. Awards will be presented to the winners at the 26th Annual King County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on January 17, 2013, held in downtown Seattle.